In the Claims:

Please amend claims 21, 26, 27, 28, 44, 45, 57, 58, 63, 65, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, and 87 to appear as follows:

21. (amended) A method of identifying financial instruments meeting user-defined investment criteria, comprising the steps of:

retrieving financial instrument data from at least one data source;

processing the financial instrument data to identify values for a plurality of searchable parameters for particular financial instruments in said financial instrument data;

receiving user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;

comparing the user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments; and

identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria.

26. (amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of

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processing the financial instrument data to identify values for a

plurality of searchable parameters comprises the step of

calculating data values for the searchable parameters from the

financial instrument data.

27. (amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said step of

calculating data values for the searchable parameters from the

financial instrument data comprises the step of calculating

values for at least one of the following search parameters:

Black-Scholes value, percent if called, percent if not called, in

the money, out of the money, volatility, earnings change, and

spread between called and not called.

28. (amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of

comparing the user-defined search criteria with the values

identified for the searchable parameters comprises the step of

searching financial instrument data comprising at least one of

the following: open interest; option month; spread between called

and not called; price; volume; volatility; price earnings ratio;

earnings change; percentage volume change; number of shares;

range between high and low values; and put options.

44. (amended)   A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for identifying financial instruments meeting user-defined investment criteria, the computer readable medium being readable by a computer to process the instructions to perform the following steps:

retrieving financial instrument data from at least one data source;

processing the financial instrument data to identify values for a plurality of searchable parameters for particular financial instruments in said financial instrument data;

receiving user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;

comparing the user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the financial instruments having values matching the user-defined search criteria; and

identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria.

45. (amended) A method of providing financial data to a user over a computer communications network, comprising the steps

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of:

retrieving financial instrument data from at least one data source;

creating a database of searchable data from the financial instrument data, said database comprising for each of the financial instruments values for a plurality of searchable parameters;

receiving user-defined search criteria via the computer communications network;

searching the database of searchable data for financial instruments having values for a plurality of searchable parameters that satisfy the user-defined search criteria; and

returning a representation of at least one of the plurality of financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters satisfying the user-defined search criteria to the user over the computer communications network.

57. (amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for identifying financial instruments meeting user-defined investment criteria, the computer readable medium being readable by a computer to process the instructions to perform the following steps:

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retrieving financial instrument data from at least one data source;

creating a database of searchable data from the financial instrument data, said database comprising values for a plurality of searchable parameters for financial instruments identified in the financial instrument data;

receiving user-defined search criteria via the computer communications network;

searching the database of searchable data for financial instruments having values for a plurality of searchable parameters that satisfy the user-defined search criteria; and

returning a representation of at least one of the plurality of financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters satisfying the user-defined search criteria to the user over the computer communications network.

58. (amended) A server system programmed to perform the following steps:

creating a database of financial instrument data from at least one data source;

creating a database of searchable data from the financial instrument data, said database comprising for each of a plurality

of financial instruments values for a plurality of searchable

parameters;

receiving user-defined search criteria via a computer

communications network;

searching the database of searchable data for financial

instruments having values for a plurality of searchable

parameters that satisfy the user-defined search criteria; and

returning a representation of at least one of the plurality

of financial instruments having values for the searchable

parameters satisfying the user-defined search criteria to the

user over the computer communications network.

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63. (amended) The server of claim 58, wherein said step of

returning a representation of at least one of the plurality of

financial instruments comprises transmitting a representation of

the at least one of the plurality of financial instruments over

the Internet.

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65. (amended) A method of identifying financial instruments

meeting user-defined investment criteria to a user, comprising

the steps of:

presenting to a user a set of searchable parameters;

accepting user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;

transmitting the user-defined search criteria to a server for searching for financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters corresponding to the user-defined search criteria;

accepting from the server a set of financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria; and

presenting to a user the set of financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria.

81. (amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for identifying financial instruments meeting user-defined investment criteria, the computer readable medium being readable by a computer to process the instructions to perform steps comprising:

presenting to a user a set of searchable parameters;

accepting user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;

transmitting the user-defined search criteria to a server

for searching for financial instruments having values for the
searchable parameters corresponding to the user-defined search
criteria;

accepting from the server a set of financial instruments
having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-
defined search criteria; and

presenting to a user the set of financial instruments having
values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined
search criteria.

82.   (amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the step of
receiving user-defined search criteria for said searchable
parameters comprises the step of receiving user-defined search
criteria for at least one of the following searchable parameters:
spread between called and not called; percent if not called;
percent if called; volume; open interest; stock price; in the
money; and out of the money.

83.   (amended) The method of claim 82, wherein the step of
presenting to a user the set of financial instruments comprises
the step of compiling a list of stock options, wherein the list
identifies for each stock option at least one of the following:

stock name; stock symbol; option symbol; strike month; strike price; bid; volume; open interest; percent if not called; and percent if called.

84. (amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the step of receiving user-defined search criteria comprises the step of receiving user-defined search criteria for at least one of the following searchable parameters: spread between called and not called; percent if not called; percent if called; volume; open interest; stock price; in the money; and out of the money.

85. (amended) The method of claim 84, wherein the step of returning a representation of at least one of the particular financial instruments comprises the step of returning a list of stock options, wherein the list identifies for each stock option at least one of the following: stock name; stock symbol; option symbol; strike month; strike price; bid; volume; open interest; percent if not called; and percent if called.

86. (amended) The method of claim 59 wherein the step of receiving user-defined search criteria comprises the step of receiving user-defined search criteria for at least one of the

following searchable parameters: spread between called and not

called; percent if not called; percent if called; volume; open

interest; stock price; in the money; and out of the money.

87. (amended) The method of claim 86, wherein the step of

returning a representation of at least one of the plurality of

financial instruments comprises the step of returning a list of

stock options, wherein the list identifies for each stock option

at least one of the following: stock name; stock symbol; option

symbol; strike month; strike price; bid; volume; open interest;

percent if not called; and percent if called.

REMARKS

Claims 21-89 are pending in this case. Claims 21 through 89

stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for

allegedly failing to specifically define and distinctly claim the

invention. Also, claims 21 through 89 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent

6,317,726 (O'Shaughnessy II) in view of U.S. Patent 6,012,042

(Black), U.S. Patent 5,784,696 (Melnikoff), and U.S. Patent

6,321,212 (Lange). Applicants respectfully request